



Monday, October 15, 2012

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Medicare Open Enrollment Begins Today

Medicare Open Enrollment runs from October 15 through December 7. Now is the time for beneficiaries to compare plans, and make sure they have the right health and prescription drug coverage. Stay with your current plan if you are happy with it. Or look for a new one with better coverage, higher quality, and lower cost.

To review and compare plans, get answers to your questions and learn where to get further help near you, visit www.medicare.gov or call 1-800-MEDICARE (TTY 1-877-486-2048).

To read the results of the Kaiser Family Foundation's Survey *Seniors' Knowledge and Experience with Medicare's Open Enrollment Period and Choosing a Plan*, click on <http://www.kff.org/medicare/upload/8374.pdf>

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Health Care Law Increases Access to Primary Care Through the National Health Service Corps

Investments help ease cost of professional schooling for clinicians, students

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius last week announced that \$229.4 million was invested in the National Health Service Corps in 2012 to support more doctors and nurses and increase access to primary care. These investments included nearly 4,600 loan repayment and scholarship awards to clinicians and students, and grants to 32 states to support state loan repayment programs.

The National Health Service Corps provides financial, professional and educational resources to medical, dental, and mental and behavioral health care providers who bring their skills to areas of the United States with limited access to health care. With nearly 10,000 providers, the National Health Service Corps has nearly tripled since 2008. In addition to Corps clinicians

currently providing care, nearly 1,000 students, residents, and health providers receive scholarships or participate in the Student to Service Loan Repayment program to prepare to practice.

Additional information on this announcement is available at:

<http://www.hrsa.gov/about/organization/bureaus/bcrs/nhscoverview.html>

For more information about NHSC programs, please visit

<http://www.NHSC.hrsa.gov>

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Stay Informed

This Week's Quick Facts

Between 1959 and 2010, the percentage of people age 65 and over living below the poverty level decreased dramatically from 35 percent to 9 percent.

In 2010, adults (aged 18 years and older) with disabilities were less likely to binge drink (10.2 percent) than adults without disabilities (16.2 percent).

Webinar on *Integrating Medicare and Medicaid: What's Happening Now, and What It Means for Assisted Living and Other LTSS*

Twenty-six states have applied to the federal government to combine Medicaid and Medicare. Under these applications, up to two million dual-eligibles (persons eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare) would be transferred into an integrated Medicaid/Medicare health care system. In most cases, they would receive care through a managed care organization.

The changes will be dramatic. The potential benefits are substantial, but so are the potential risks for consumers. At the state and federal levels, consumer advocacy will be vital in assuring that the new systems fulfill their potential and properly protect consumers' rights to quality health care.

Join the Assisted Living Consumer Alliance for a free webinar explaining the dual integration process, with a focus on how the new systems will affect long-term services and supports (LTSS). The speakers will be Georgia Burke and Eric Carlson, attorneys from the National Senior Citizens Law Center.

Date: Tuesday, October 30, 2012

Time: 11:00 a.m. Pacific/2:00 p.m. Eastern

Register now at, <https://www4.gotomeeting.com/register/826512591>

After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Webinar.

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Webinar Reminders

Webinar on Financing and Sustaining Behavioral Health Interventions

Mental/behavioral health issues are often under-recognized problems that can negatively impact the health and well-being of older adults. Recognizing this important public health issue, the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Community Living's Administration on Aging and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration have partnered to provide a free webinar.

Date: Wednesday, October 17, 2012

Time: 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. EDT

This webinar will feature leaders in behavioral health that will share strategies that state and local agencies have used to finance prevention and early interventions for substance abuse/misuse and depression, as well as describe opportunities in the Affordable Care Act, the Older Americans Act, Medicaid, and in demonstrations conducted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to support these interventions, programs and practices.

To register, please [go here](#).

If you experience difficulty registering or signing on, please contact Donna Siu at JBS International, Inc. at dsiu@jbsinternational.com or 240-645-4898.

Once the host approves your registration request, you will receive a confirmation email with instructions for joining the meeting. Please register no later than one day prior to the webinar.

You will receive audio call in information when you log-on to the webinar.

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Webinar on Helping Seniors with Finances

A new web seminar in the American Society on Aging's (ASA) Family Caregiver Support Series, sponsored by Home Instead Senior Care, will provide tips and ideas to assist older adults in financial organization.

Discussion Topics:

- Creating a professional services team.
- Options for financing care.
- Ways to help older adults manage their money and prevent them from becoming victims of fraud.

Date: Wednesday, October 17, 2012

Time: 10:00 a.m. PT / 11:00 a.m. MT / 12:00 p.m. CT / 1:00 p.m. ET

[Click here to learn more and register.](#)

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Boomers: What Will Their Legacy Be?

This is the last webinar in the American Society on Aging's (ASA) three-part series, *The Challenges of Being a Boomer*.

The webinar will take a broad view of boomer trends, projecting their impact and contribution on future generations.

Date: Thursday, October 18, 2012

Time: 10:00 a.m. PT / 11:00 a.m. MT / 12:00 p.m. CT / 1:00 p.m. ET

[Register Now!](#)

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Webinar on Making the Most of the New NCOA Crossroads

Did you ever wish you could ask a colleague's advice and didn't know who to call? Attend the national Council on Aging's (NCOA) free one-hour webinar on how to use NCOA's newly updated online community, [Crossroads](#). Learn how it can connect you with aging-field professionals nationwide--and help you in your job!

Date: October 18, 2012

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. ET

Type: Webinar

[Register](#)

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Tools & Information

Get Caught Up with ACA

Miss any of the Administration for Community Living's (ACL) recent Affordable Care Act webinars? You can find materials from all of our webinars at http://www.aoa.gov/Aging_Statistics/Health_care_reform.aspx#webinar.

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Annual Reassignments for LIS-Eligible Individuals

Each year, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) processes annual reassignments for certain Low Income Subsidy (LIS)-eligible individuals.

This year's Informational Bulletin provides an update on the next steps in the process to ensure that states understand their role in ensuring that dual eligible beneficiaries have timely, affordable, and comprehensive coverage under the Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit. To download the Bulletin, go to [LIS IB Reassignment Notice_Sept 13 2012 updates draft 2_TBcomments final 9-26-12 \(3\).pdf](#)

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NISC Annual Programs of Excellence Awards

The deadline for the National Council on Aging's National Institute of Senior Centers (NISC) 2012 Programs of Excellence Awards is Friday, October 26, 2012.

This awards contest has been designed to honor and promote the outstanding efforts made by senior centers to enhance program offerings to senior adults. Programs conducted in a senior center between July 1, 2011 and September 30, 2012 are eligible for awards.

Note: You must be a current member of NISC to submit a nomination.

To learn more and to submit your application, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2012NISC Awards>

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Transition to Better Care Video Contest

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) is sponsoring this video contest as part of its *Care About Your Care* campaign, a national effort to spark conversation and galvanize attention about what people can do to identify and receive better health care.

Simply create a video no longer than two minutes that shares a specific innovative way you, your family, health care provider, or colleague(s) have worked to ensure safe care transitions and reduce avoidable readmissions.

You will need:

- A link to your video on YouTube.com or Vimeo.com
- [Consent forms](#) for everyone who appears in your video. Minors' consent forms should be signed by a parent/guardian.

The submission deadline is November 17, 2012, at 11:59 p.m. ET.

For complete submission instructions, [click here](#).

To review contest judging criteria and submission requirements, [click here](#).

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Go Direct Provides New Resources for Nursing Facilities

People who live in nursing facilities – and their representative payees – must transition to electronic federal benefit payments by the March 1, 2013. In order to help administrators comply with this requirement, a [new page](#) is now available on [GoDirect.org](#) that outlines the steps facilities should take in the remaining months before the deadline. The page also contains information on common situations regarding federal benefits that nursing facilities may encounter and how to help residents convert to direct deposit.

The page features various resources such as:

- A presentation developed in conjunction with the American Health Care Association (a *Go Direct* campaign partner)
- A program overview
- Newsletter copy for publications to your patients, residents or their families
- Documents that outline the most common scenarios for nursing homes
- Contact list for transitioning federal benefit payments to direct deposit

- Glossary of relevant key words

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Speak Up: What You Need to Know about Your Serious Illness and Palliative Care

Download this new brochure from The Joint Commission for tips on how you and your family can cope with a serious illness or health problem, as well as emotional, practical and spiritual concerns.

To learn more about The Joint Commission, go to www.jointcommission.org

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2013 Call for Presentations; Deadline Approaching

The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) is looking for innovative proposals that engage the AAA and Title VI audience, discuss successful programs that are replicable nationwide, and cover topics that are current and relevant to its mission.

Share your innovation, experience and expertise with Aging Network colleagues at the n4a 38th Annual Conference & Tradeshow in Louisville, Kentucky.

The deadline to submit a proposal is Monday, October 29. [Submit a proposal](#).

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Observances This Week

October 15: National Latino AIDS Awareness Day

The last day of Hispanic Heritage Month, October 15th, is National Latino AIDS Awareness Day (NLAAD). NLAAD is a national community mobilization and social marketing campaign that unites the Hispanic/Latino community in efforts to raise HIV awareness and to promote HIV testing, prevention and education.

For more information and resource materials, visit the National Latino AIDS Awareness Day website at <http://www.nlaad.org/>

October 15-19: National Health Education Week

National Health Education Week promotes consumers' understanding of the role of health education in promoting the public's health. This year's theme is "Adolescent Health: Planting Seeds for a Healthier Generation."

For more information and resource materials, including a planning guide and toolkit, go to the Society for Public Health Education's National Health Education Week webpage at <http://www.sophe.org/nhew.cfm>

October 16: World Food Day

World Food Day is a day of action against hunger. It is estimated that there are nearly 900 million hungry people in the world, and just about one in seven people suffers from undernourishment.

For more information and resource materials, including a toolkit on planning an event in your community, go to the World Food Day USA webpage at <http://www.worldfooddayusa.org/>

October 20: World Osteoporosis Day

World Osteoporosis Day focuses on raising awareness, education and support for osteoporosis and bone health.

In 2010, 54.2 million people were estimated to have osteoporosis or low bone mass. In the U.S., one in two women and one in four men over the age of 50 will experience an osteoporosis-related fracture.

The Women In Government Bone Health Policy Resource Center provides up-to-date news, thorough information on bone health and osteoporosis, links to resources and publications, and more. To access the Bone Health Policy Resource Center, please visit <http://womeningovernment.org/bone>. For the Center's Bone Health Legislative Toolkit, go to <http://womeningovernment.org/bone/toolkit>

Other helpful links:

www.worldosteoporosisday.org
www.americanbonehealth.org
www.iofbonehealth.org
www.nbha.org

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Recent Reports

A New Way of Looking at Private Pay Affordability of Long-Term Services and Supports

http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/research/public_policy_institute/ltc/2012/private-pay-affordability-ltss-insight-AARP-ppi-ltc.pdf

Source: AARP Public Policy Institute

Date: October 2012

Implications of the Affordable Care Act for American Business

<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412675-Implications-of-the-Affordable-Care-Act-for-American-Business.pdf>

Source: Health Policy Center

Date: October 2012

The Vast Majority of Medicare Part D Beneficiaries Still Don't Choose the Cheapest Plans That Meet Their Medication Needs

<http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/31/10/2259.full.pdf+html>

Source: Health Affairs

Date: October 2012

Clinically Appropriate and Cost-Effective Placement (CACEP): Improving Health Care Quality and Efficiency

<http://www.ahhq.org/images/pdf/cacep-report.pdf>

Source: Alliance for Home Health Quality and Innovation

Date: October 2012

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